

State of Delaware Child Protection Accountability Commission Permanency for Adolescents Committee

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2016 -- 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

In Attendance:

The Hon. Peter B. Jones (Co-Chair)
Shirley Roberts (Co-Chair)
Lauren Brueckner
Tania Culley, Esq.
Felicia Kellum

Kathryn Lunger, Esq.
Rachael Neff
Teresa Sedivec, Esq.
Amanda Sipple

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Judge Peter Jones, Co-Chair, welcomed everyone and attendees introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from February 9, 2016 were approved.

III. OLD BUSINESS

a. Implementation of P.L. 113-183 – Update and Committee Role

i. Required Judicial Findings (Bench Card, IV-E Chart, Attorney Questions)

A benchcard has been completed and distributed to the judicial staff. The IV-E chart has been updated with APPLA findings and will be distributed once the rules are updated on it. Training will be made available for professionals, including social media usage. Training will include information for professionals about social media monitoring and safety. The Bench card and IV-E chart will be distributed to the committee.

ii. Legislation

Tania Culley, Esq. led discussion on the proposed bill on Normalcy/Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard. The committee discussed the draft and a few changes to it. Ms. Culley motioned for the legislation to be approved and taken to CPAC. Shirley Roberts seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

b. Youth Transition Guide

Felicia Kellum led discussion about the youth transition guide. The guide needs substantial updates. The committee discussed adding the youth transition guide to the Self-Sufficiency and Benchmark workgroup's charge.

c. Sex Education and Pregnancy Prevention

Felicia reported that a workshop will be available to youth at the Annual Youth Advisory

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Council (YAC) Conference that is planned for August. A parenting guide, provided by the Delaware Division of Public Health, will be distributed by Rachel Neff for use at the conference. Foster parents will receive a workshop at their annual conference in May.

d. Youth Involvement in Court/ Court Observation

The committee discussed the outcomes of the youth involvement in court observation project. Youth completed a survey and the survey results were analyzed. A summary was provided for the youth. Rachael plans to gather feedback annually through the court improvement program. The youth involvement survey summary will be distributed to the committee.

e. New Castle County Mural

Amanda Sipple provided updates regarding the New Castle County Courthouse Mural project. The mural project will occur the week of June 27th – June 30th at the Delaware College of Art and Design. The funds for the mural have been secured. The Office of the Child Advocate will reach out to law firms for sponsors for breakfast and lunch. Professionals and youth will receive invitations to participate in a few weeks.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Permanency Options

The Permanency Options chart has been updated to reflect the changes required by P.L. 113-183. Judge Crowell made a motion to accept the changes and distribute the chart as a CPAC document. The motion was seconded by Ms. Roberts. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

b. Self-Sufficiency Benchmarks

The Self-Sufficiency Benchmarks workgroup has met and reviewed the self-sufficiency benchmarks. There are many proposed changes to the previously created booklet. The Office of the Child Advocate offered summer intern support to the workgroup in an effort to complete the changes if the workgroup so chooses.

V. DUAL STATUS YOUTH STATISTICS

a. APPLA

The number of youth with the plan of APPLA continue to decrease as the cases are reviewed. However, as of March 31, 2016 more than 50% of youth ages 16 and 17 in DSCYF Custody have a plan of APPLA and two children less than 16 who have had Court hearings still have a plan of APPLA. OCA, DFS and the Court continue to review data and

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court orders to ensure accurate statistics.

b. Extended Jurisdiction

The number of youth with Extended Jurisdiction (EJ) has begun to decline, while the percentage of youth entering EJ each quarter has been rising.

c. Juvenile Justice and Dual Status Youth

The Committee reviewed the statistics for juvenile justice and expungements. The report indicated that about half of OCA clients aged 11 or older continue to be involved with the juvenile justice system. This statistic has remained the same over the past two years. Entries into DSCYF custody from the juvenile justice and mental health systems have continued to remain at 10% of entries.

VI. 2016 MEETING DATES

•July 29, 2016 •October 21, 2016 - PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE

All meetings will take place from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in both Wilmington and Georgetown.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00.